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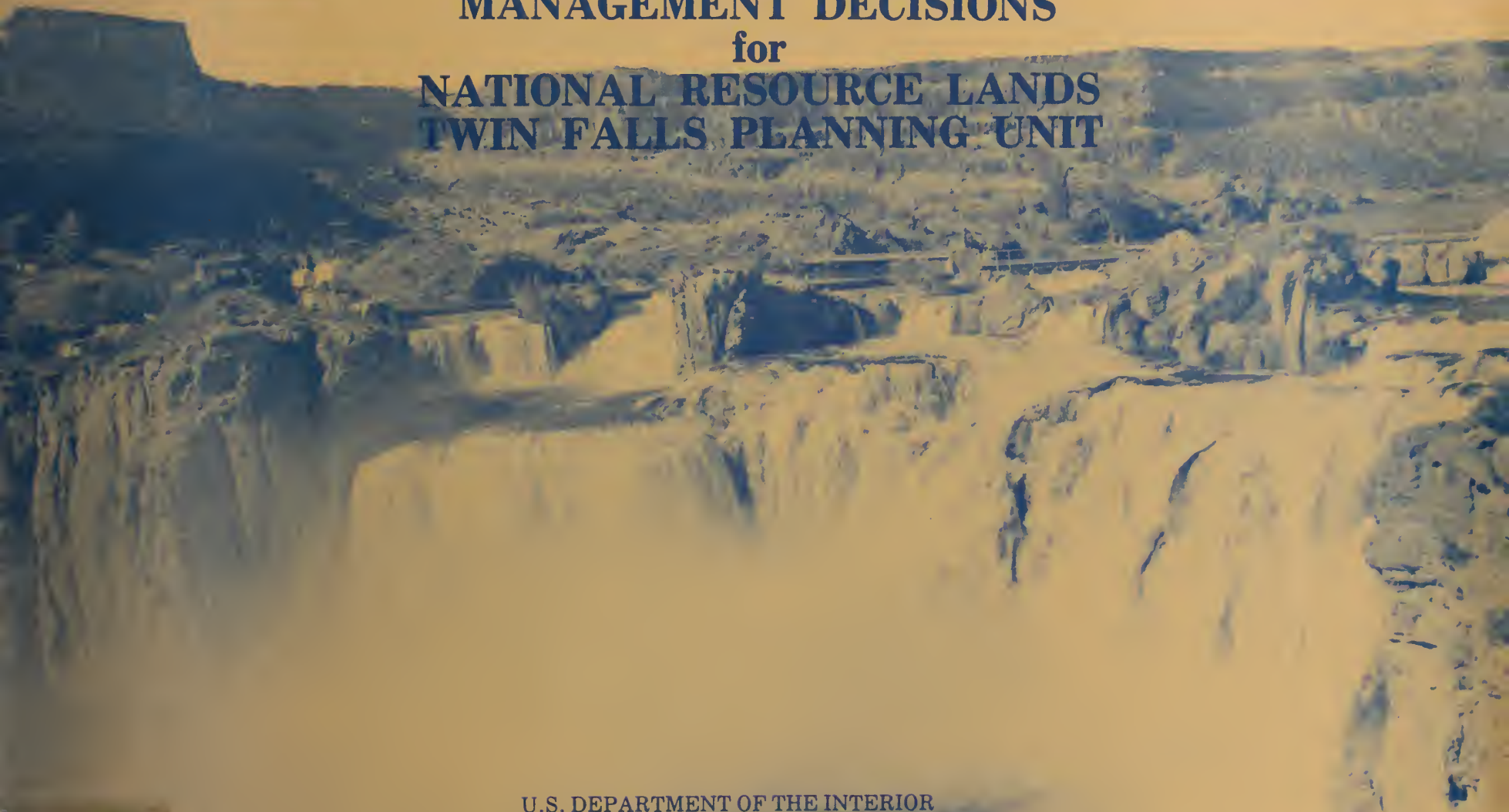
MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS for NATIONAL RESOURCE LANDS TWIN FALLS PLANNING UNIT



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Burley, Idaho, District

July, 1974

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As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, land, wildlife, mineral, park and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial Affairs are other concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources."

The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States — now and in the future.

The Bureau of Land Management, an agency of the Department of the Interior, is charged with the administration of programs for conservation and development of the public lands and resources. In Idaho, there are six Bureau of Land Management districts with offices in Boise, Burley, Idaho Falls, Salmon, Shoshone and Cour d'Alene.

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Preface

Preliminary resource data collection in the Twin Falls Planning Unit started in 1967. In 1972, a concerted effort was launched to complete the BLM planning effort for the unit.

After many public contacts and public meetings, recommendations for the management for each of the resources in the unit were analyzed by the Burley District and were brought to the public for review. Based on the public contacts and suggestions, the District Manager has finalized his management recommendations.

This booklet is a summarization of the major management decisions for the unit and is presented as a public service.

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FRONT COVER PHOTO
Shoshone Falls
on the Snake River
near Twin Falls, Idaho.

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One of the largest agriculture related industries in the planning unit is that of domestic livestock grazing.

Introduction

The Twin Falls Planning Unit lies partly on a small section of the Snake River Plain and part is in the Basin and Range Province of the Upper Snake River subregion of the Columbia River drainage. The plain consists largely of a 1 to 12 mile wide belt of nearly flat to gently rolling land. The Basin and Range Province is a group of partly dissected faultblock mountains separated by downfaulted basins. The climate of the uplands is semiarid to subhumid and that of the valleys and plain is arid to semiarid. The average annual precipitation is only 9 to 10 inches in most of the area.

The north one-third of the Unit is mainly private land which is being utilized for urban and suburban uses or is being farmed with some type of irrigation system with water coming from the Snake River.

The national resource land, state land and U.S. Forest Service land generally lies in the southern two thirds of the Unit.

The largest cities in the planning unit are: Twin Falls, Buhl, Filer, and Kimberley. The smaller communities are Castleford, Murtaugh, Hansen, Hollister, Rogerson, Amsterdam, Berger, Clover, Artesian City, and Rock Creek.

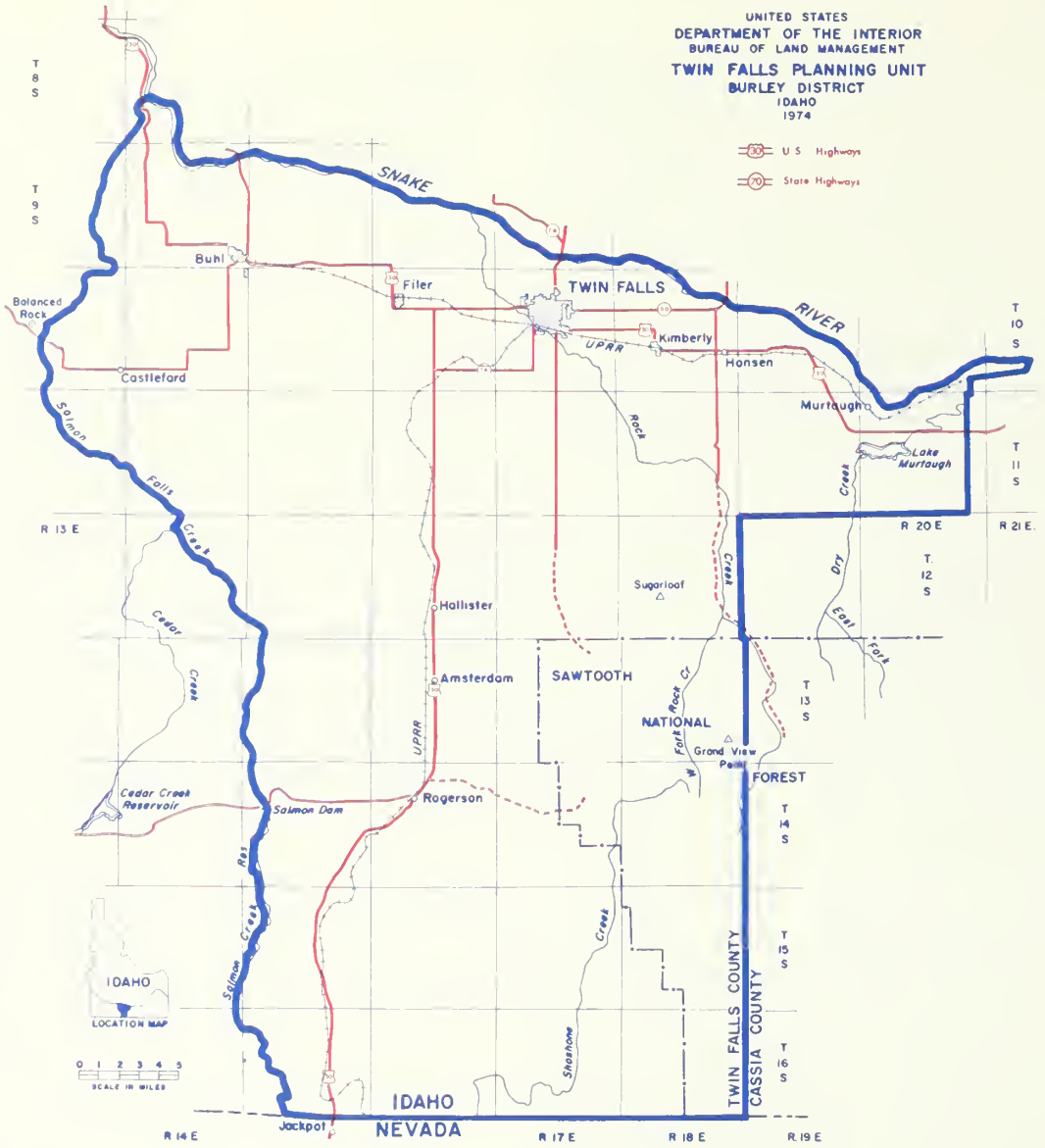
Main travel arteries within the Unit are Highway 30 which runs east and west through the northern part of the Unit and Highway 93 which enters from Nevada just north of Jackpot, and extends north to intersect with Highway 30 about two miles east of Filer. Interstate 80 North is just across the Snake River to the north of the county.

The increased demand for a variety of uses of national resource lands such as livestock grazing, wildlife, recreation, sale of lands, minerals, and watershed caused the Bureau of Land Management to undertake the preparation of a comprehensive lands use plan to resolve conflicts among resource uses.

The planning system used by the Bureau of Land Management includes detailed inventories to describe the existing situation and a determination of opportunity or potential for management of the basic resources—such as Lands, Minerals, Recreation, Forestry, Wildlife, Watershed, and Livestock Forage. "Best" management recommendations for each particular resource are developed which commonly result in overlaps and conflicts of the resources being managed. Tentative solutions to these competing or incompatible resource uses are presented as multiple use recommendations. After a thorough analysis, the District Manager adopts a set of recommendations—called a Management Framework Plan—which indicate how the national resource lands in the unit can best be managed for multiple uses. The Management Framework Plan provides direction and guidance for all subsequent actions in the unit. Public participation—involving organized groups, interested individuals, state and local government, and others—is vital throughout this planning process.

The Burley District specialists began gathering resource data concerning the Twin Falls Unit as early as 1967. In 1972, a concerted effort was launched to complete a management framework plan for the unit. After each specialist recorded everything known about the resource, personal contacts were made and public meetings were held to obtain additional detailed information on resources within the Twin Falls Unit. Public contacts and meetings were also held to develop recommendations for the management of each resource. After a thorough analysis, a set of multiple use recommendations were brought to the public for review. The numerous comments and suggestions were fully considered before the Burley District Manager formulated the Management Framework Plan. The Twin Falls MFP was completed October 1973.

The Twin Falls MFP is summarized in this document. The full document is available in the Burley District Office for review. The MFP provides both management direction and guidance and a framework for future BLM actions in the unit. These management recommendations adopted will receive additional review by the public and will be in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It is anticipated that the MFP will be revised from time to time to meet the needs of the people and to cope with changing local and national conditions. Major revisions will be accomplished with full public participation. The Burley District is planning annual public meetings to provide feed back to the public on the status of the planning effort in theTwin Falls Planning Unit. Announcement will be made on these meetings at a later date.



Map of Twin Falls Planning Unit.

Socio-Economic Environment

The Twin Falls Planning Unit encompasses all of Twin Falls County, Idaho, east of Salmon Falls Canyon. The county population in 1970 was 41,807. The 1973 estimated census of population indicated that the county population is increasing at the rate of 1,164 persons per year.

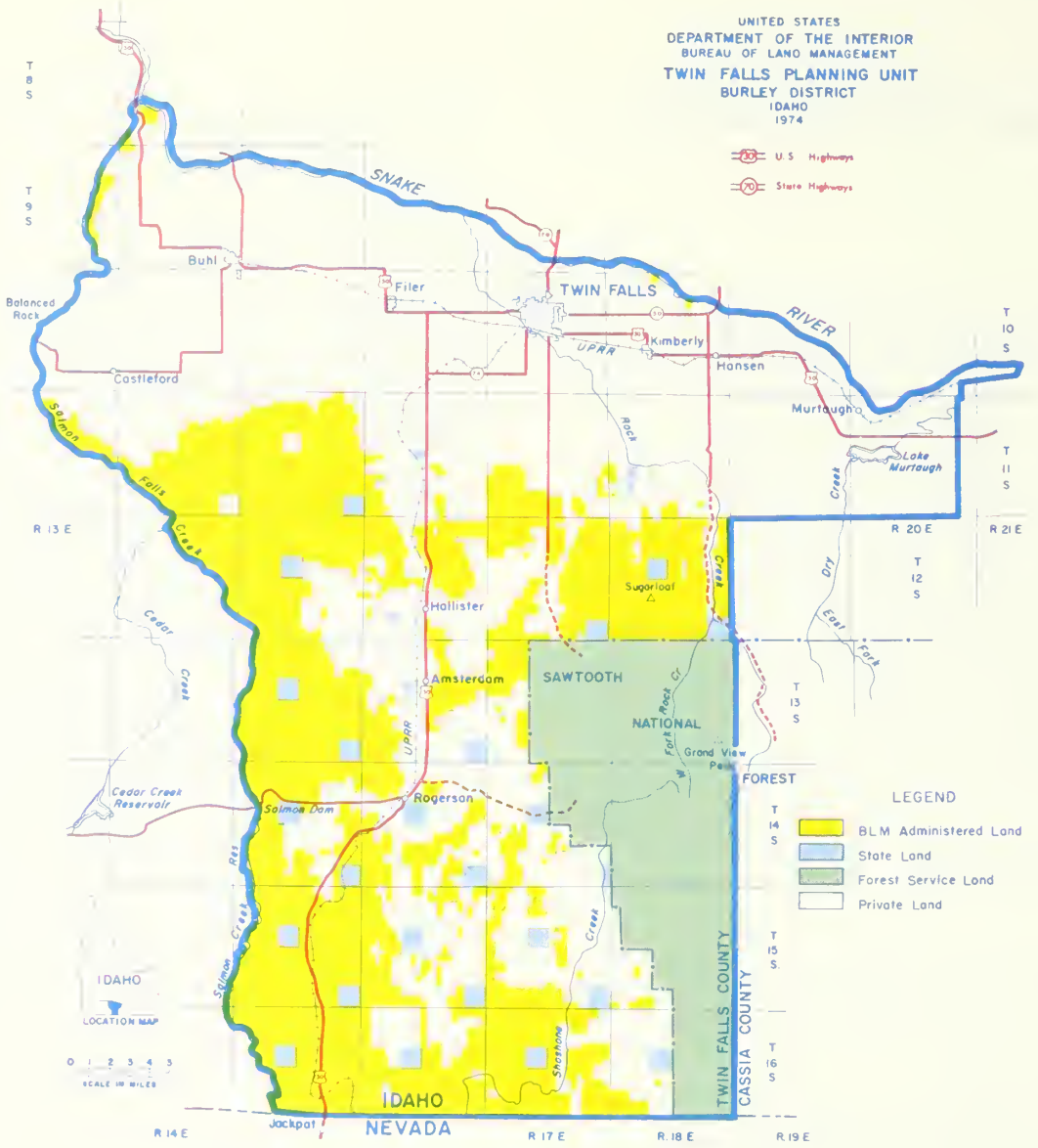
A large part of the county's economy is based on agriculture and agriculture-related industry. One of the largest agriculture-related industries is that of domestic livestock grazing. This grazing involves nearly all of the national resource lands in the Unit with much of it being in conjunction with ranch operations that are based in the irrigated farming areas. A major part of the livestock raised in Twin Falls County winters on forage grown on private farms and grazes the summer months on national resource lands and national forest lands. The BLM's Berger Tract receives some year-round grazing.

Tourism plays a limited role in the economic base of the Twin Falls Unit. A number of tourists enter the county from the South, on Highway 93, and some tourist input is associated with the resort town of Jackpot, Nevada. The balance of the tourist trade is generally associated with the people traveling on Interstate 80-N.

An important factor in the socio-economic situation of the Unit is the rapid growth of the city of Twin Falls. There is some concern by zoning committees and local citizens that the good farm land in the suburban to rural areas will be utilized for subdivided urban housing in the near future.

Another item of social interest in the Unit is whether the Snake River Canyon should be preserved or developed. Both factions are present and decisions will have to be made as to what use will be made of lands along the river.

Increased recreational use in the Southern portion of the planning unit is associated with the resort town of Jackpot, Nevada.



Generalized Land Ownership Within Planning Unit.

The Lands and Resources

Lands

In May of 1970, 231,000 acres of national resource lands administered by BLM within the planning unit were classified for retention in Federal ownership for multiple use under the Classification and Multiple Use Act. This acreage was also segregated from entry under the agricultural and homestead laws. Most of these lands were to remain open to all other applicable forms of use, including mining and mineral leasing laws, but 3,990 acres were further segregated from appropriation under the general mining laws.

Other action in 1970 classified 5,036 acres as suitable for exchange for private lands; 538 acres for recreation and public purposes; 40 acres for desert land entry; and 40 acres for sale. About 8,400 acres in the unit remain unclassified for any specific purpose.

Other lands within the area include about 96,259 acres of national forest land, 12,925 acres of State land, 461,588 acres of private land, 106 acres of State Fish and Game land, and 10,298 acres of land withdrawn for reclamation projects, military use, stock driveways, public water reserves, study plots, power sites, power transmission lines, canals and ditches, roads and highways, railroads, material sites, waste disposal sites, and recreation sites.

Turkish ovens used by the crews that constructed Salmon Falls Creek Dam.

Antiquities

The planning unit contains a limited variety of archaeological and historical features that are considered as being valuable for scientific, educational and recreational purposes. A complete survey or inventory of these features has never been completed.

The most significant values in the area are the historical features. Some of these features are primarily of local significance, but others such as the Cauldron Lin and Stricker Cabin have been nominated for or have received state and national historic landmark status. Most of the historical sites are associated with the Oregon Trail or the freight and stagecoach roads which crossed the Unit in the early to mid 1800's.

Recreation

The topographical features of this Unit offer a wide variety of recreational opportunities. The views range from the rugged sheer basalt cliffs of the Snake River and Salmon Falls Creek Canyon to the rolling foothills of the south hills and Shoshone Basin, to the mountainous timbered national forest land. The views from the rims of either the Snake River or Salmon Falls Canyons are breathtaking.

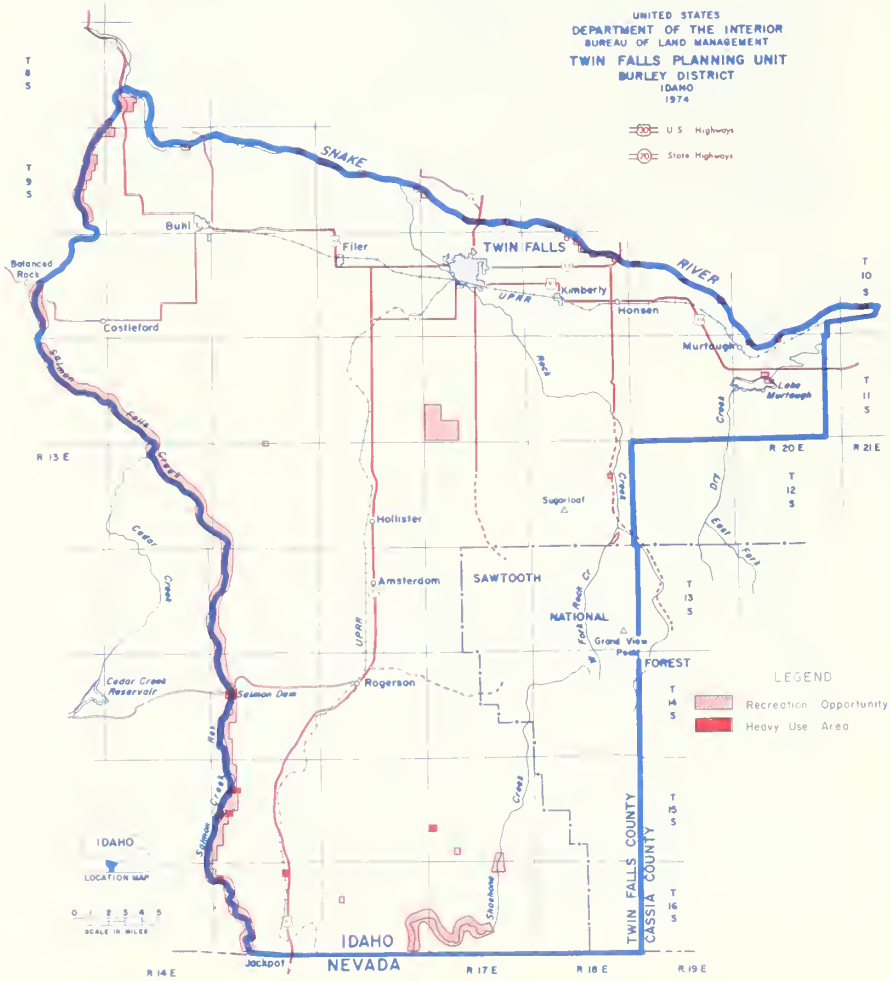
The general view of most of this Unit is one of open space or quiet remoteness. With the exception of the northern one-third, which is populated and farmed, the Unit offers a chance for many people to get away from the congested urban areas and spend their leisure hours on outdoor pursuits.

As yet, there have been no studies conducted to determine the number of visitor days (a visit by one person for 12 hours) of recreation use in the Unit. Most of this use occurs between the months of May and October. The percent increase is projected to raise each year with the growing demand people have for places to spend their leisure time. Table 1 shows supply and demand estimates for recreation activities within a 50-mile radius of the city of Twin Falls to year 1970.

Some of the most popular forms of recreation that have been identified within the area are: waterfowl hunting, big and small game hunting, fishing, power boating, sailing on reservoirs, float boating on rivers, swimming, historical, cultural, archaeological, scenic, geological and zoological sightseeing, off-road vehicle travel, mineral collecting (rockhounding), and visiting primitive areas.

There are many areas which now receive or have the capabilities of receiving more recreational use.

There are currently three BLM sites within the area that are designated for recreation use. These are the Salmon Falls Creek Canyon Research Natural Area (Inter-Departmental Committee on Natural Areas), the Balanced Rock Picnic Site, and Salmon Dam Recreation Site.



Present Recreation Facilities in Planning Unit

Table 1: Supply and Demand Estimates for Recreation Activities Within a 50-Mile Radius of Twin Falls, Idaho*

Activity Days to Year 1970

Activity	Demand	Supply	Need Activity Days	Acres
Camping	756,623	234,000	—522,623	232
Picnicking	200,216	454,500	+254,284	None**
Water Sports	1,343,579	57,060	—1,286,519	14,295

*This service area represents 14 percent of the State population.

**Within the service zone there are adequate facilities to meet the picnic demand, but there are undeveloped areas such as reservoirs where new pressure will be created to meet the water sports shortages. Those people at particular areas will also need day use facilities.

Livestock Forage

The majority of this unit supported a sagebrush-grass type of vegetation. Wildfires and subsequent range rehabilitation result in a large percentage of the unit having a crested wheat-grass cover. There are about 135,000 acres of grassland now in the unit, including both native and introduced grasses. The ramaining brush and shrub vegetation with associated native grasses covers about 107,600 acres. There are no known areas of serious poisonous or noxious plants on national resource lands.

Over the years, fenced private and group allotments have been formed to facilitate grazing administration. Some private and state owned lands are administered with the national resource lands in exchange for other grazing use. There are currently 71 grazing allotments in the unit used by 103 individuals. About 33,000 AUMs (One AUM is the amount of forage eaten by one

Within the planning unit there are 23 allotments under a management system of some kind.

The "Berger Tract" has been intensively developed and managed for livestock grazing.

cow in one month) of forage is used under regular grazing permit or license each year. An additional 13,000 AUM's are allowed each year on a temporary basis. There are 10,558 acres in the unit designated as stock driveways and about 1,320 acres of national resource lands in scattered parcels. Grazing of these scattered tracts has been allowed on a temporary basis.

The range within the Unit is rated 37 percent "Excellent," 35 percent "Good,", 18 percent "Fair," and 10 percent "Bad" or "Poor." These ratings are based on soil and vegetation watershed study conducted by BLM.

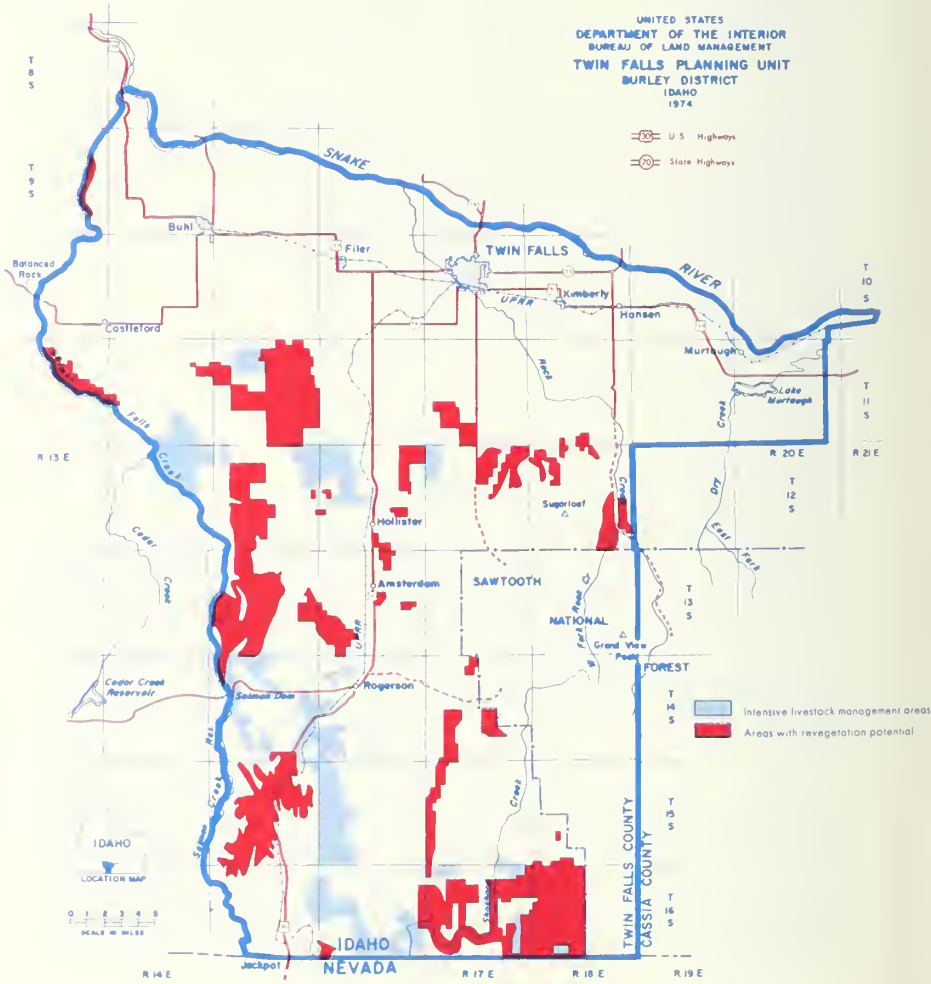
Intensive grazing management systems are becoming more prevelant in the Unit. At the present time there are 23 allotments under a management system of some kind. Most of these management systems are rest-rotation or deferred rotation grazing systems worked out between the range users and BLM range managers.

Two large areas in the Unit have shown very significant increases in forage production since they were seeded to crested wheatgrass in the 1950's and 1960's. The most significant area is the "Berger Tract," where nearly 50,000 acres of national resource land was seeded in nearly a solid block of crested wheatgrass from 1952-1963. The other area is the portion of the Shoshone Basin burned by the Magic Fire in 1966.

The Berger Tract was seeded with special funds for the control of beetleaf hoppers through elimination of annual weed host plants. The tract has been intensively developed and managed for livestock grazing. This is to effectively harvest the forage without risking reinvasion of annual weeds. A water system with 78 miles of pipeline running from one large well has been developed for the 20 fenced allotments within the Berger Tract. The Magic Fire burned several thousand acres in the Shoshone Basin in 1966 and almost all of the burned area was seeded to crested wheatgrass. It too is under intensive management.

Only about 1.5 acres are required to feed one cow for one month on the Berger Tract. The tract produces about 26,000 AUMs of range forage per year, where it previously produced only about 300 AUMs annually!

There are no known wild horses or burros in the Twin Falls Planning Unit.



Livestock Forage Opportunities

Minerals

In recent years, the value of all minerals produced in Twin Falls County has been approximately $1,000,000. The minerals produced, in order of value, are sand and gravel, lime, and clays.

Sand and gravel has been and remains to be the most valuable mineral resource produced in the unit. Sand and gravel is in great demand for highway construction, gravelling unpaved roads, and for use as aggregate for paving roads. There is a definite need in the unit for material which is suitable for use as concrete aggregate.

Lime is produced in this area from limestone rock hauled in from Utah and used in sugar refining.

Clay production is from the part of Twin Falls County which lies west of Salmon Falls Canyon. The clay is used chiefly to make pottery.

Other minerals known to exist in the unit are pumice and volcanic ash, diatomite, gold, gem stones (mostly geodes), and some geothermal resources. There are some hot mineral springs in the area and some interest has been shown for the geothermal resources.

Indicated Mineral Deposits

Watershed

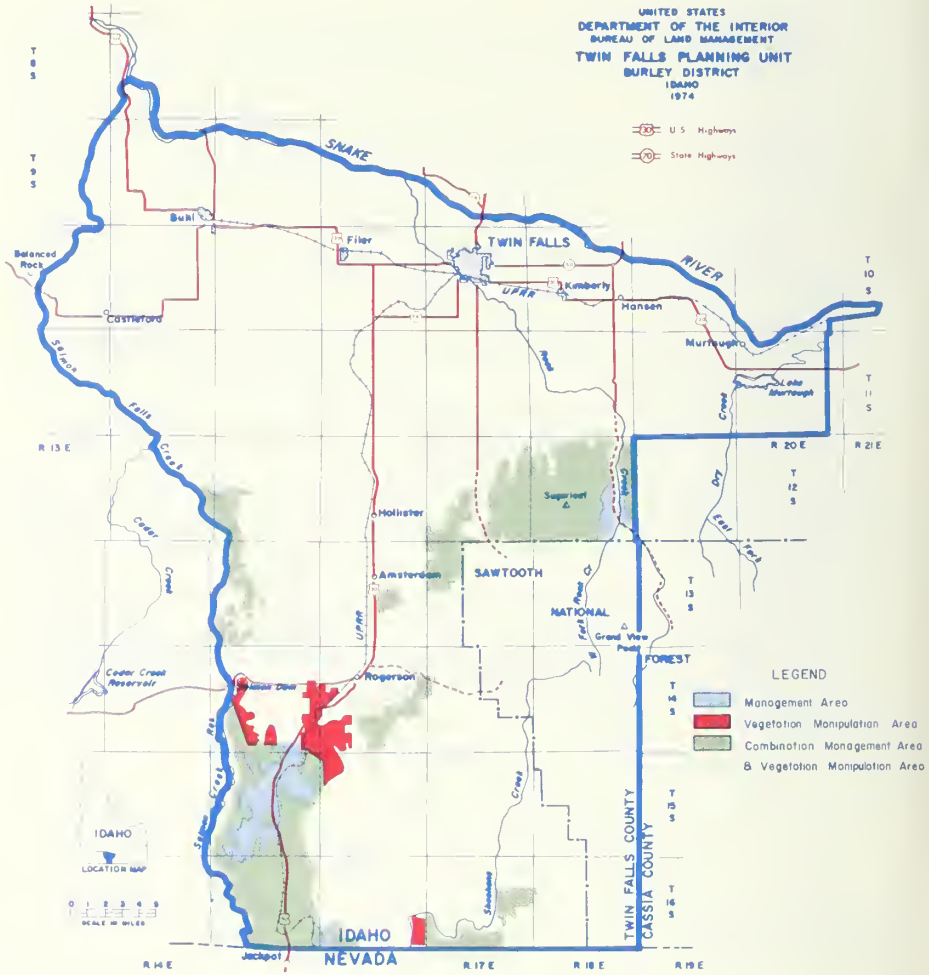
The average annual precipitation in the unit varies from 8.7 inches in the northwest to 19.0 inches in the southeast portion. The annual average is 13.0 inches. Most precipitation is received during the winter (as snow) and spring. Evaporation averages 8.17 inches per month between May and October and the relative humidity for the same period averages 58 percent.

Most of the watersheds in the Unit are in fair to good condition with none lower than moderate. Approximately one third of the Federal lands in this unit have moderate erosion. Most of this erosion takes place on the sagebrush vegetation types that exist from the county line near Rock Creek southwesterly to the Nevada-Idaho state line.

The surface soil textures of the soils in the unit vary from loams in the hills, mountains and canyons to sandy loams, silt loams, and loams in the lower areas. Subsoil textures vary from loam or silt loam, to clay loams, to very cobbly loams. Most of these soils are underlain by caliche (hardpan) layers at depths of 20-40 inches.

Slopes in this watershed average about 4-12 percent and the waterholding capacity of the soils is usually limited to the top 3 to 6 inches.

Crested wheatgrass seedings in vast areas have improved watershed conditions in this unit.



Soil Categories

Wildlife

Wildlife species are an important and attractive constituent of the unit.

Big Game Species:

Big game species are not abundant in this unit, but mule deer and pronghorn antelope do inhabit some parts. The mule deer is found throughout the area designated by the Idaho Fish and Game Department as herd unit 54. This herd unit includes national forest and BLM-administered land in the south half of the planning unit, and has been one of the most productive deer harvest units in the state. Hunting pressure is heavy in this unit.

A small herd of antelope (15-25) inhabits the area between U.S. Highway 93 and Salmon Falls Creek. They are usually seen just east of Salmon Falls Reservoir and are thought to be a part of the large herd of antelope that live on the west side of Salmon Falls Creek (Browns Bench).

Migratory and Upland Game Birds:

Mourning Doves, Quail, Wild Pigeons, Chukkar, Hungarian partridge, pheasants, grouse and waterfowl are the main game birds of the area. No statistics are available, but a large number of hunters annually come to the planning unit area to hunt these birds.

Non-Game Species:

Numerous species of non-game birds exist here. The Salmon Falls Canyon is known to be inhabited by raptors and other birds of prey in localized areas. Songbirds, small fur-bearing mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and a few species of non-game fish are also to be found.

Fish:

The streams and reservoirs within the planning unit provide good fishing for local people as well as non-residents. The Snake River in certain spots contains Sturgeon, Cutthroat and Rainbow Trout, and other game fish species. The Salmon Falls Reservoir supports good populations of coho salmon, rainbow trout, kokanee, salmon and crappie. Other good fishing spots in the unit are Rock Creek, Salmon Falls Creek, Shoshone Creek and its tributaries, Murtaugh Lake and Bluegill Lake.

Twin Falls Planning Unit Wildlife Species

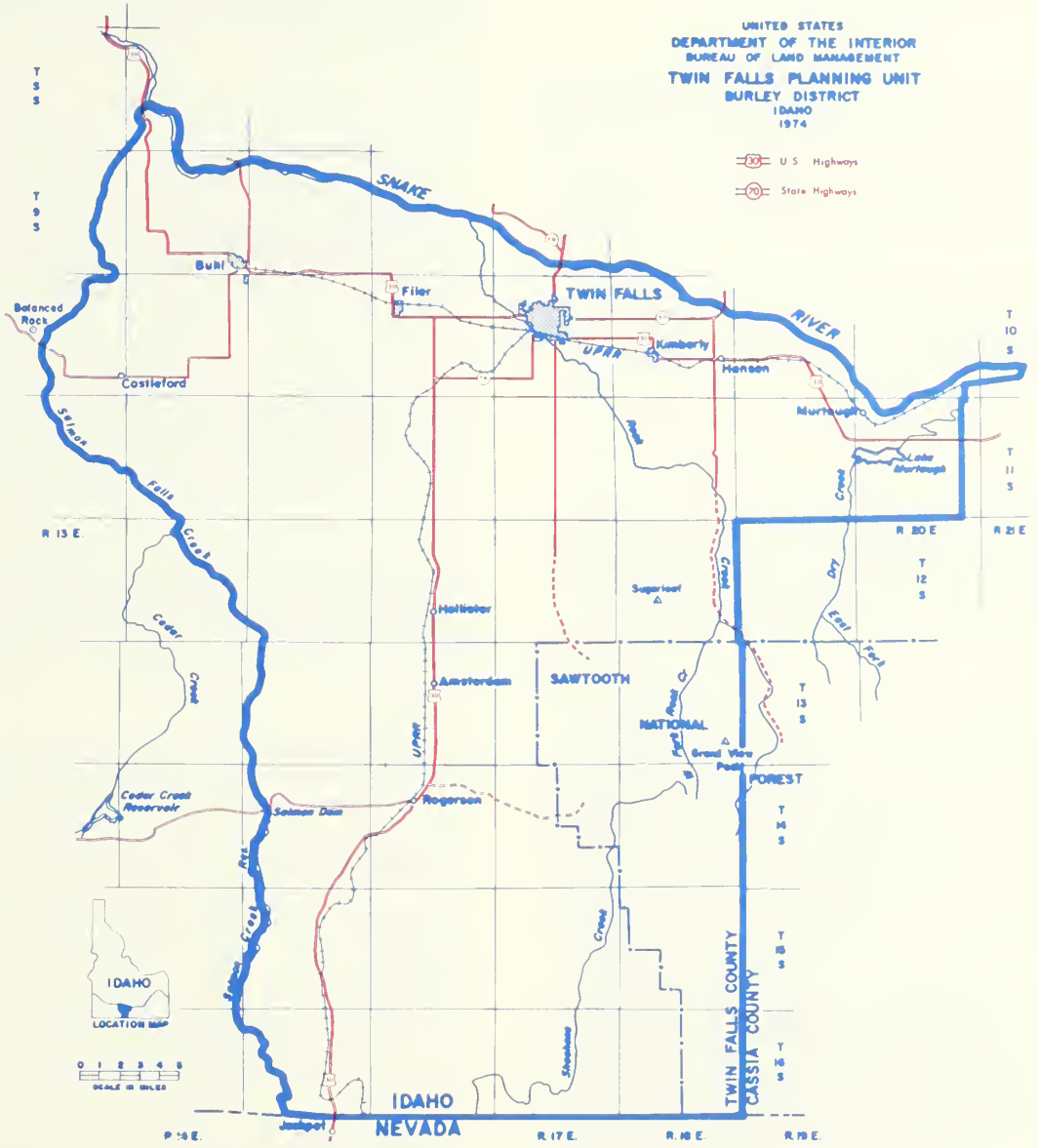
Raptors	Predators	Furbearers	Amphibians	Reptiles	Fish
Falcons	Fox	Skunk	Toads	Lizards	Trout
Eagles	Coyote	Weasel	Frogs	Rattlesnakes	Sturgeon
Hawks	Bobcat	Jackrabbits	Salamander	Horned Toads	Salmon
Turkey Vulture	Mountain Lion (rarely)	Cottontail rabbits		Blue Racer	Carp
		Squirrel		Gopher Snake	Bluegill
		Rodents			Crappie
		Muskrats			Suckers
					Kokanee

Management Criteria

The basic objectives of the Bureau of Land Management are to plan for and manage or dispose of national resource lands in a manner providing the maximum benefit to the general public. To accomplish this task, the Bureau will:

- Protect the lands, resources, environment, and public values from avoidable destruction, abuse, and deterioration, and correct past abuses to the extent feasible.
- Manage, develop, and dispose of public lands and resources to maintain a quality environment, to help meet the people's need for the lands and their resources, and to contribute to the stability and orderly growth of dependent uses, industries, communities, and regions.
- Encourage public participation in the decision making process.

With multiple objectives and a charge to manage the national resource lands for multiple uses, comprehensive planning is vital in order to achieve the best mix of resource uses for long term management.



Twin Falls Planning Unit and Vicinity

Management Decisions

Specific on-the-ground actions require fundamental management direction. The Twin Falls Management Framework Plan provides guidance and direction for a variety of specific uses and actions. The following are a summarization of the major management decisions after full public participation. Some of them apply to the unit as a whole while others apply only to certain areas.

The decisions adopted for the Unit are given in more detail in the Twin Falls MFP document itself.

Lands

ENCOURAGE AND PARTICIPATE IN DEVELOPING COUNTY ZONING WHICH WOULD INCORPORATE BLM PLANNING INTO THE ZONING ORDINANCE AND ACTIVELY PURSUE ZONING OF NATURAL RESOURCE LANDS.

County zoning would guide the growth of Twin Falls County and be much more effective than spot zoning or zoning only urban areas.

MAKE LAND AVAILABLE FOR URBAN, RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL USES THROUGH LAND CLASSIFICATION WHERE NEEDS ARISE FOR NATIONAL RESOURCE LANDS NORTH OF JACKPOT AND MAGIC HOT SPRINGS.

Both of these communities are slowly expanding and the national resource lands will be needed for orderly growth and development.

RETAIN ALL NATIONAL RESOURCE LANDS ALONG THE SNAKE RIVER UNTIL EITHER [1] THEY CAN BE EXCHANGED FOR OTHER LANDS IN THE CANYON AND ALONG THE RIVER WHICH CAN BE MANAGED EFFECTIVELY FOR PUBLIC USE; or [2] UNTIL LOCAL OR STATE GOVERNMENT CAN DEVELOP THE LANDS FOR GENERAL PUBLIC USE.

Some scattered parcels of national resource lands along the river can't be used by the public at the present time. Land exchanges could provide public use areas and improve private land ownership patterns and uses.

RETAIN NATIONAL RESOURCE LANDS VALUABLE FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT AND WASTE DISPOSAL SITES.

Certain national resource lands were classified for disposal from federal ownership and others not classified for any specific purpose. The lands presently have values that indicate they should be retained in Federal ownership and managed by BLM.

ACQUIRE, THROUGH EXCHANGE OF SCATTERED TRACTS, PRIVATE AND STATE-OWNED LANDS ESSENTIAL FOR MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT IN CONCENTRATED USE AREAS AND AREAS WHERE HIGH POTENTIAL FOR PUBLIC USE EXISTS.

Cauldron Linn is a historical point connected with the Oregon Trail, Murtaugh Lake is located on national resource land but surrounded by the private lands, and Perrine Bridge is an area of national resource lands with high potential for recreation use. Acquisition of private and state lands would allow use of these and other areas by the general public.

RESTRICT FUTURE POWER TRANSMISSION LINES TO A CORRIDOR ALONG EXISTING POWERLINE RIGHTS-OF-WAY. IF POWER IS EXTENDED ACROSS SALMON DAM, LINES WILL BE BURIED TO PROTECT RECREATION VALUES.

Concentration of powerlines to a corridor precludes new developments across lands which are relatively in a natural state and preserves open space. Aerial power lines at Salmon Dam would significantly detract from the value of the site for recreation uses.

APPROVE A LEASE TO THE STATE OF IDAHO FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A 50-UNIT CAMPGROUND AT BUHL DUNE.

The State of Idaho can best meet the recreation demand at this site through development of a campsite. Concentrated use at the site is more appropriate for State development and management than by BLM.

CONTINUE LEASES AND PERMITS FOR DOG TRAILS, MODEL AIRPLANE FLYING, AND TRAPSHOOTING.

These leases are consistent with other land uses and help meet the needs of the people. The leases offer a low cost opportunity for small groups to make moderate developments for special uses.

Recreation

DESIGNATE THE SALMON FALLS NATURAL AREA AS THE AREA FROM SALMON DAM DOWNSTREAM TO BALANCED ROCK INCLUDING ONE-HALF MILE ON EACH SIDE OF THE CANYON, AND DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION PLAN FOR SALMON DAM AND THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY.

The unique geologic features and undisturbed nature of this site provides very high potential for recreation use. The demand for recreation use is rapidly increasing in the Twin Falls area and a comprehensive plan for management of this site is essential. The area is predominantly national resource lands and can best be managed by BLM.

POST BOUNDARIES OF NATIONAL RESOURCE LANDS WHICH ARE OPEN TO RECREATION USE AND DEVELOP A ROAD SIGN PROGRAM TO FACILITATE RECREATION USE.

Over 50,000 persons live in the Twin Falls area and the national resource lands provide a variety of recreation uses. Public meetings disclosed a strong need for signs to identify national resource lands and roads leading to them.

STUDY AND DEVELOP WHERE FEASIBLE, A SYSTEM OF CROSS-COUNTRY TRAILS THROUGHOUT THE UNIT FOR OFF-ROAD VEHICLES, HORSES, AND HIKING.

A need for trail systems was strongly voiced at public meetings, particularly by motorcyclists and ORV clubs. Heavy use of trails on national resource lands indicates trail systems are needed to provide for this recreation use while protecting other resource values.

COMPLETE DETAILED INVENTORIES OF THE UNIT TO DETERMINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC VALUES, HAZARDS, AMOUNTS OF RECREATION USE, AND OTHER DATA FOR RECREATION MANAGEMENT.

No detailed studies have been conducted in the unit to date and basic information is lacking.

MAINTAIN A NATURAL SCENIC CORRIDOR ALONG U.S. HIGHWAY 93 FROM JACKPOT, NEVADA, TO ROGERSON AND ALONG THE ROCK CREEK ROAD.

This portion of U.S. 93 is in a relatively natural state and the open space should be maintained for the travelling public. The Rock Creek Road is the main access to the national forest for recreation activities and scenic qualities will be maintained.

ESTABLISH AN INTERPRETIVE SITE ON A PORTION OF THE "BERGER TRACT."

The Berger Tract is an example of an area developed for maximum livestock use. Several different grazing systems have been initiated on the tract and a complete water system developed. The 50,000 acres of crested wheatgrass is economically important since 26,000 AUMs are produced annually.

A large number of hunters annually come to the planning unit to hunt for sage grouse.

Livestock Management

DEVELOP AN ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ALL GRAZING ALLOTMENTS WHERE THEY DO NOT PRESENTLY EXIST.

Allotment Management Plan (AMP) maintain or improve livestock forage, wildlife habitat and watershed conditions. AMPs are designed to provide long term grazing management and result in increased quality and quantity of livestock forage, improve wildlife habitat, and reduced erosion.

WHERE THE CARRYING CAPACITY HAS BEEN PROVEN AND PREVIOUSLY ISSUED ON A TEMPORARY LICENSE SUCH FORAGE WILL NOW BE ALLOCATED FOR USE TO THE PRESENT OPERATORS.

For several years, forage over and above established grazing privileges has been used through use of temporary licenses. These temporary licenses represent a significant amount of extra paper work to issue supplemental grazing licenses annually. Allocating this forage for use by present operators will greatly reduce paperwork and stabilize the local livestock economy.

ISSUE TERM PERMITS FOR GRAZING OF SCATTERED PARCELS OF NATIONAL RESOURCE LANDS IN AREAS PREDOMINANTLY IN PRIVATE OWNERSHIP — RATHER THAN ANNUAL LICENSES.

Issuance of term permits will reduce the paperwork presently required to issue licenses each year.

MAINTAIN STOCK DRIVEWAYS UNDER PRESENT WITHDRAWALS WHICH PRECLUDES DISPOSAL FOR OTHER USES.

Stock driveways are needed to facilitate livestock movement and management. The withdrawn status of these lands is appropriate and will be maintained for the forseeable future.

COMPLETE AN INVENTORY OF THE UNIT FOR WILD FREE ROAMING HORSES AND BURROS.

Although no wild horses or burros are known to exist in the unit, a detailed inventory will be made.

RESEED THE AREA BETWEEN COTTONWOOD AND ROCK CREEKS FOR INCREASED LIVESTOCK FORAGE PRODUCTION CONSISTENT WITH WILDLIFE HABITAT NEEDS. ANY FENCING IN THE AREA WILL PROVIDE FOR MIGRATION OF DEER AND ANTELOPE.

The area has good potential for reseeding to improve the quality and quantity of forage and reduce soil erosion. No reseeding will be done until a Wildlife Habitat Management Plan has been completed, and any reseeding will provide for wildlife needs.

ELIMINATE LIVESTOCK GRAZING ALONG THE BOTTOM OF SALMON FALLS CREEK.

Heavy grazing along the canyon bottom contributes to soil erosion and greatly reduces the natural appearance of the proposed Salmon Falls Natural Area.

Minerals

ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY GRAVEL PIT FOR THE PEOPLE OF TWIN FALLS COUNTY AND PROVIDE FOR REHABILITATION OF THE SITE.

CONTINUE TO MAKE SAND AND GRAVEL AVAILABLE FOR USE BY THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, TWIN FALLS COUNTY, THE CITY OF TWIN FALLS, AND OTHER COMMERCIAL USERS. MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN TO REHABILITATE SAND AND GRAVEL SITES.

COMPLETE AN INVENTORY OF SAND AND GRAVEL DEPOSITS ON NATIONAL RESOURCE LANDS WITHIN THE UNIT.

Sand and gravel is a scarce commodity in the unit and is quite valuable. There is a strong demand for sand and gravel and much of the known supply is located on national resource lands. The demand for small quantities can be most easily handled by establishment of community pits.

DESIGNATE RABBIT SPRING AS A PUBLIC ROCK COLLECTING AREA AND COMPLETE A MINERAL EXAMINATION OF EXISTING MINING CLAIMS.

Abundant geodes and easy access make this a popular area for rock-collecting. Existing mining claims need to be examined for validity to determine if the general public can continue to use the area.

COMPLETE A MINERAL EXAMINATION OF TRACTS OF NATIONAL RESOURCE LAND ALONG THE SNAKE RIVER WHICH MAY BE SUITABLE FOR EXCHANGE.

Mining claims are a cloud on title to the lands and must be resolved before an exchange is finalized. Valid claims may pass to private ownership where invalid claims are declared null and void.

Watershed

MAINTAIN OR IMPROVE EXISTING WATERSHED CONDITIONS THROUGH CONTROLLED LIVESTOCK GRAZING AND MANAGEMENT OF OTHER RESOURCE USES.

Watershed conditions can be maintained or improved through "natural" means rather than plowing, contour furrowing, pitting, brush control and other mechanical or artificial revegetation practices.

Wildlife

COMPLETE DETAILED INVENTORIES OF SPECIFIC WILDLIFE VALUES ON TRACTS OF NATIONAL RESOURCE LANDS THAT ARE CLASSIFIED FOR DISPOSAL.

In 1970, certain isolated tracts were classified for disposal from Federal ownership. It has since been determined that some of the tracts represent important wildlife habitat and probably should remain in Federal ownership. A determination needs to be made on these tracts of their value before any disposal action is taken.

MAINTAIN MULE DEER AND SAGE GROUSE CRUCIAL WINTER HABITAT AND MAINTAIN OR IMPROVE OTHER HABITAT TO INCREASE EXISTING POPULATIONS. DEVELOP HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THESE SPECIES.

Both deer and sage grouse are important game species in the unit and winter habitat usually represents the limiting or critical factor in their life cycles.

MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE, WHERE FEASIBLE, HABITAT FOR QUAIL, CHUKKAR, PHEASANTS AND MIGRATORY WATERFOWL.

These game species are much in demand and the unit can be managed to increase populations in some areas and maintain current numbers in the rest.

DETERMINE FEASIBILITY OF INTRODUCING ANTELOPE AND SHARPTAIL GROUSE IN THE AREA SOUTH OF ROGERSON.

Antelope occasionally use the area, but do not constitute a resident herd. If forb seedings are successful, antelope could possibly be introduced. The area may also be suitable for sharptail grouse habitat.

COMPLETE DETAILED HABITAT INVENTORIES FOR BOTH GAME AND NON-GAME SPECIES. DEVELOP HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR BIRDS OF PREY AND OTHER SPECIES AS APPROPRIATE TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE AND DIVERSITY OF WILDLIFE POPULATIONS.

Non-game species are essential to balance wildlife populations and provide diverse ecosystems. Importance of big game species should not overshadow critical requirements of the non-game animals.

Roads and Trails

IMPROVE THE ROAD FROM U.S. HIGHWAY 93 TO THE EAST RIM OF SALMON FALLS CANYON AND DEVELOP AN OVERLOOK.

This canyon is relatively undistrubed, scenic and unique. The canyon will be designated as a natural area. There is strong interest and public support for a road and overlook.

POST BOUNDARIES OF NATIONAL RESOURCE LANDS WHICH ARE OPEN TO RECREATION USE AND DEVELOP A ROAD SIGN PROGRAM TO FACILITATE RECREATION USE.

Over 50,000 persons live in the Twin Falls area and the national resource lands provide a variety of recreation uses. Public meetings disclosed a strong need for signs to identify national resource lands and roads leading to them.

STUDY AND DEVELOP WHERE FEASIBLE, A SYSTEM OF CROSS-COUNTRY TRAILS THROUGHOUT THE UNIT FOR OFF-ROAD VEHICLES, HORSES AND HIKING.

A need for a trail system was strongly voiced at public meetings, particularly by motorcyclists and ORV clubs. Heavy use of trails on national resource lands indicates a trail system is needed to provide for this recreation use while protecting other resource values.

The "magic" fire of 1966 burned several thousand acres in the Shoshone Basin. Almost all of the burned area has since been reseeded.

The Mule deer is found throughout the Planning Unit designated by the Idaho Fish and Game Department as herd unit 54. Hunters have found that this is one of the most productive deer harvest units in the State.

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Framework Plan for the land area within the Twin Falls
been developed by the Bureau of Land Management in
he many people who attended our meetings. Natural
s from the Bureau's Burley District Office and Idaho State
. Appreciation is extended to Twin Falls County for the
ncil provided by its citizens, agencies and interest groups.
he management and use recommendations and supporting
ning the plan are on file in the Burley District Office of
Management, 200 South Oakley Highway, Burley, Idaho.
l is welcomed and encouraged.

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Resource Lands Tw

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(Continued on reverse) Form

BACK COVER PHOTO

The Salmon Falls Creek Canyon north of Salmon Dam.